

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield
The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom
The Honorable Alex Kasser
The Honorable Matt Blumenthal
The Honorable John A. Kissel
The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

John Nulsen, MD
Claudio Benadiva, MD, HCLD
David Schmidt, MD
Lawrence Engmann, MD, MRCOG
Andrea DiLuigi, MD
Daniel Grow, MD, MHCM

Marie Heslin, APRN, ANP-BC
Deborah Hintz, APRN, ANP-BC
Glorimar Diaz, APRN, FNP-BC

Re: Proposed Bill No. 6321: An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

I am a medical psychologist, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and OBGYN at UCONN Health, and I was the primary psychologist at the Center for Advanced Reproductive Services (CARS) for 27 years prior to my retirement in 2018. I specialized in caring for patients with infertility and especially patients who sought conception with donor eggs, sperm and embryos.

Many people in our state rely on the availability of assisted reproductive technologies such as in-vitro fertilization, to become parents. In 2017, more than 10% of the babies born in Connecticut were conceived with such medical assistance!¹ Choosing to use assisted reproduction, and/or to accept the help of donors and gestational carriers, are challenging decisions to make. Concern for the legal status of children is one big worry for some of these families.

I am writing today to respectfully urge the committee to vote in support of:
Proposed Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act

Right now, Connecticut is the only state in New England without clear paths to legal parentage for unmarried non-biological partners. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) provides a much-needed update to Connecticut law by clarifying who is a parent and providing those paths to individuals who have children through assisted reproduction, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or marital status.

I have had the privilege of counseling thousands of the diverse, resilient families of Connecticut. The CPA would update Connecticut's laws to better recognize and

protect the full range of children and parents in our state. Connecticut is a national leader in ensuring access to fertility care. We have been a leader in fairness and equality for the LGBT community. We can and should be a leader in parentage law, too. We all want what is best for children - Voting in support of the CPA is a critical step.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter in support of Proposed Bill No. 6321. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mcasey', followed by a horizontal flourish.

Mary Casey Jacob, PhD, ABPP
Emeritus Professor, UCONN Health,
Departments of Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynecology
Retired psychologist, Center for Advanced Reproductive Services
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¹ *State-Specific Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance*, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION), <https://www.cdc.gov/art/state-specific-surveillance/index.html>.